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PROF. MANDEVILLE'S READING BOOKS.
D. Appleton & Co., 200 Broadway, N. Y.

THE attention of the friends of Education, is invited to these books. Though they have been before the public for a short time, they are being generally adopted in this New York and New Jersey, and are recommended by the Commissioner of Public Schools in Rhode Island, and are now used extensively in Providence, Brooklyn, N. Y., Newburyport, Mass., and in New York, N. Y. They are well adapted to the needs of the Normal School, at Albany, N. Y. In Maine they are used in many Academies, and are fast going into the Common Schools. They are adapted to the needs of the Normal School, at Albany, N. Y. In Maine they are used in many Academies, and are fast going into the Common Schools. They are adapted to the needs of the Normal School, at Albany, N. Y. In Maine they are used in many Academies, and are fast going into the Common Schools.

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The Pastor of St. Agathy.

In the most remote and unknown part

of the *Departement des Deux Seines*,

there existed in 1792 a little village of

poor peasants, under the name and patronage

of St. Agathy. It contained a

boat forty houses, which might more

properly be called huts, for their roofs

were composed of reeds and straw, and

their walls but a miserable union of

woodwork and clay. There lived here,

however, a community distinguished both

for simplicity of manners and firmness

of religious principle. Its pastor had

taken his post here at the age of twenty-

five, and had ever since shared the joys

and sorrows of his flock, living like

himself in a miserable hut, satisfied

with the same meagre fare, and doing

his duty in every respect with that faith-

ful zeal which only a deep inward piety

can stimulate. Thus he had spent fifty

years, and had won the hearts of all his

parishioners, who loved and revered him

as a father. He had during this time

declined all propositions for bettering

his position; partly from love for those

under his charge, partly from fear that

no other pastor would remain long in

such a poor parish; and therefore he be-

came old on the same spot, amid the

same poverty, doing all the good he

could in his narrow sphere, for which he

felt himself richly rewarded by the child-

like love of his little flock.

As the French Revolution broke out,

the Pastor of St. Agathy began to fear

that neither he, nor his little parish

would be spared from the all-voracious

storm. One day he received orders from

the chief place of the Department to

swear to what was then called the civil

constitution of the clergy, or give up

immediately his post and quit his parish.

The good man was so little acquainted

with political matters, that he did not

at first know what was required of him;

but as a copy of the constitution recom-

panied the orders, he lost no time in

studying its contents, and came to the

conviction that he could neither ac-

knowledge nor swear to it. Still less

did he think himself bound to obey or-

ders by leaving the parish. He contin-

ued, therefore, to remain at St. Agathy,

and to perform his clerical offices as if

nothing uncommon had happened, be-

lieving himself acting according to his

duty and conscience.

Meanwhile, this measure, to which many

other clergymen also refused to con-

form, began to create troubles, particu-

larly in the Departments of the West.

After the authorities had forcibly re-

moved many of the opposing clergymen, the

discontented parishes united themselves

in a formal alliance, and prepared to

defend themselves by arms against all vi-

olence. Thus was developed by degrees

an insurrection, which from a mere spark

became a raging flame. The National

Convention, informed of the state of

things, ordered troops to restore tran-

quillity wherever it was disturbed. Com-

missaries were appointed, with full pow-

ers. Such a Commissary came to Niort,

the chief place of the Department in

which St. Agathy was situated.

This man was of a cruel nature, and

believed himself bound to act with sever-

ity against all who resisted. He ordered

all insubordinate clergymen to be taken

prisoners, putting a price upon the

head of such as could not be found.—

The pastor of St. Agathy could evidently

not escape the prosecution, and one

evening accordingly the news spread that

the next day a company of soldiers was

to come from Niort, to take him prison-

er. The Communal Council immedi-

ately assembled. Of resistance there

could be no question, as it would have

been useless. Yet the worthy pastor,

whose safety was the subject of univer-

sally anxiety, could not be forsaken. It

was therefore resolved to bring him to a

place of safety, which had already been

found out. He opposed at first, and

said he would willingly endure what-

ever Heaven ordained for him. He suf-

fered himself, however, finally to be

led by his faithful parishioners to a

coal-hut in the forest, where four armed

men remained with him, both to prevent

him from delivering himself up volun-

tarily, and to defend him in case of nec-

essity.

The following day, eighty soldiers,

with two cannon, made their appearance

at the village, to get possession of the

pastor, who was found in the coal-hut.

Towards evening the pastor was in-

formed that the danger was past; but

he did not know at what price his par-

ishioners had paid for his safety. He

returned with those who accompanied

him, not to the village of St. Agathy,

but to the smoking ruins where it had

once been. No words can express the

deep pain he felt as he saw the desola-

tion of the scene, in which the families

were gathered in the open air, robbed

of their all. With streaming eyes, he

reproached them for not having hindered

so great a misfortune. "Would it not

have been better to have delivered the

old man of three score and ten, who has

at most but a short time to live, and

thus have saved the rest?" They answered

him that he was the father of the com-

munity, and that good children should

shun no sacrifice for their father. He

rejoined, that such a sacrifice was wor-

thy of equal love, and that he hoped to

show them on his part what he was able

to do for his children.

Three days after, as the commissary,

or representative of the Convention sat

in his cabinet at Niort, an old, bald-headed

man was led before him, supported upon

a stick, his shoes covered with dust, and

wearing the gown of a priest sadly worse

of the wear. The old man approached

and said: "Citizen Representative, you

have made known at St. Agathy, that

20,000 francs will be given to him who

shall deliver up the head of the pastor

of that village. I am ready to earn the

price."

Much as the representative was ac-

quainted with the baseness of men, he

was yet astounded at such a proposition

from a man who was himself evidently

so near his own end.

"Priest," said he, "thou makest me

a proposition, which, for a man of thy

age and profession, must fill me with

astonishment."

"Not so much as you think! Do you

accept my offer?"

"Who art thou, that thou wilt sell

the life of thy fellow priest?"

"What has to do with the mat-

ter, if I only keep my word? I ask you

again, do you accept my offer?"

"I accept it, but may the blood shed

fall upon thy head!"

"Be it so—you pay me the sum prom-

ised."

"Thou shalt have it."

"Can you not add something to it?"

"Thou old miser, dost thou not find

thyself well enough paid for thy base-

ness?"

"Well, well, we will let it stand at

twenty thousand francs."

"When wilt thou deliver thy man?"

"I have one thing still to remark—

You must promise to let me use the

money as I wish."

"As soon as thou hast received thy

reward it is thy property, and thou canst

do with it what thou wilt."

"I know that; but I have my reasons

for being particular on this point."

"Little as I see thy reasons, I give

thee my word of honor, that no difficul-

ties shall be raised that would affect thee

in laying out the money."

"That is enough. I am myself the

pastor of St. Agathy, and deliver my-

self into your hands. Give me now the

money!"

"You are!" exclaimed, in surprise,

the representative.

"I am," answered the old man, calm-

ly.

"What do you wish to do with this

money? And do you not know what

punishment awaits you?"

"I know all that, and your threats

are superfluous. Let me now receive

the promised sum, and be brought once

more to my parishioners of St